

July 31, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room CY-B402
Washington DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 03-167

Dear Secretary Dortch:

This is written to encourage the FCC to approve SBC's application to provide long distance service to consumers in Wisconsin and in its other SBC Midwest territories.

We feel that the conditions for local service competition in Wisconsin's market have been met and now consumers have a variety of service providers to choose from. However, the long distance market is yet dominated by several companies. With SBC providing long distance service, these companies will be forced by increased competition, to lower their prices and provide higher quality service. We believe the State of Wisconsin should have full telecommunications competition.

SBC has worked hard to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission by consistently providing high quality service to all of its customers. SBC has steadfastly provided service while under the requirement to lease its network facilities and endure line loss to its competitive customers. Although that is not a formula for success, SBC has demonstrated its ability to serve customers under this format that was deemed necessary to establish local competition. Now that the local market is competitive, we feel it is the appropriate time to allow SBC into the long distance market.

There is a need to revitalize the telecommunications industry which has experienced record losses. Companies like SBC, if allowed into long distance, can facilitate investments and jobs. The FCC should look at the importance of SBC's ability to make the market more consumer driven and the company's potential to positively impact the telecommunications industry.

The Milwaukee Urban League has been providing services to primarily low-income citizens in the Milwaukee area since 1919 and we support SBC Wisconsin's efforts to gain long distance approval. We encourage the FCC to vote in favor of SBC's application, which will stimulate competition and lower cost for all consumers.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Hollmon

Ralph E. Hollmon
President and CEO